

That Which is Claimed is:

1. A backrest and deck subassembly for a sofa, comprising:
  - a frame having a generally horizontal deck section, the deck section including a top portion and an underlying bottom portion, the frame also having a generally upright backrest section attached to and extending upwardly from the deck section; and
    - an integrated upholstery piece that covers the deck and backrest portions of the frame and underlies the bottom section of the deck portion.
- 10 2. The backrest and deck subassembly defined in Claim 1, wherein the upholstery piece includes a zipper.
3. The backrest and deck subassembly defined in Claim 2, wherein the zipper is positioned along a side panel.
- 15 4. The backrest and deck subassembly defined in Claim 1, wherein the upholstery piece includes a front panel portion and a dust cover portion, and wherein the dust cover portion is formed of a different material than the front panel portion.
- 20 5. The backrest and deck subassembly defined in Claim 4, wherein the backrest/deck portion is formed of leather.
6. The backrest and deck subassembly defined in Claim 1, wherein the upholstery piece is attached to the frame without staples.
- 25 7. The backrest and deck subassembly defined in Claim 1, wherein the upholstery piece includes lateral panels that overlie lateral surfaces of the frame, and wherein the lateral panels include windows that permit access to recesses in the lateral surfaces.
- 30 8. The backrest and deck subassembly defined in Claim 1, wherein the upholstery piece further includes a deck fabric sheet attached to the underside of the backrest/deck deck portion.

9. The backrest and deck subassembly defined in Claim 8, wherein the deck fabric sheet includes laterally-extending pockets configured to receive elongate slats.

5 10. The backrest and deck subassembly defined in Claim 9, wherein the deck top section includes laterally-extending slots, and wherein the elongate slats are received in the slots.

11. A backrest and deck subassembly for a sofa, comprising:

10 a frame having a generally horizontal deck section, the deck section including a top portion, the frame also having a generally upright backrest section attached to and extending upwardly from the deck section, the deck section top portion having front and rear laterally-extending slots;

a deck fabric sheet; and

15 a pair of slats attached to the deck fabric sheet, the slats being received in the front and rear slots of the deck section top portion.

12. The backrest and deck subassembly defined in Claim 11, wherein the slats are separated from each other and the slots are spaced apart from each other such that the deck 20 fabric sheet is taut when the slats are inserted into the slots.

13. The backrest and deck subassembly defined in Claim 11, wherein the deck fabric sheet includes laterally-extending pockets, and wherein each slat is received in a respective pocket of the deck fabric sheet.

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14. The backrest and deck subassembly defined in Claim 11, wherein the front and rear slots are formed in the top portion of the deck section such that their upper ends flare away from one another.

30 15. The backrest and deck subassembly defined in Claim 11, further comprising an upholstery piece that covers the frame, and wherein the deck fabric is attached to the upholstery piece.

16. A sofa, comprising:

a backrest and deck subassembly comprising a frame having a deck section and a backrest section, the frame including lateral surfaces with inwardly-extending recesses; and  
5 a pair of arm units, each of the arm units including hooks configured to fit within the recesses of the frame to connect the arm units thereto.

17. The sofa defined in Claim 15, wherein the backrest and deck subassembly is upholstered with an integrated upholstery piece, and wherein each of the arm units is  
10 upholstered with a respective integrated upholstery piece.

18. The sofa defined in Claim 15, wherein each arm unit is further connected to the frame via a threaded fastener.

15 19. The sofa defined in Claim 17, wherein the hooks are positioned at a rearward location on the arm units, and wherein the threaded fastener inserts into a forward location on the arm unit.

20 20. The sofa defined in Claim 16, wherein the hooks are upwardly directed.

21. The sofa defined in Claim 18, wherein the backrest and deck subassembly is upholstered with an integrated upholstery piece, and wherein the upholstery piece includes a zipper on a bottom surface that travels near the forward location of the threaded fastener.

25 22. An arm unit for a sofa, comprising:

a frame having a bottom surface, the bottom surface having front and rear recesses; an upholstery piece that covers the frame bottom surface; and front and rear feet that are attached to the upholstery piece to underlie the front and rear recesses.

30 23. The arm unit defined in Claim 22, wherein the recesses include further recessed channels.

24. The arm unit defined in Claim 23, wherein seams in the upholstery piece reside in the recessed channels.

5        25. A method of constructing a sofa, comprising the steps of:  
            applying a unitary back-deck upholstery piece to a back-deck frame of a sofa, the upholstery piece substantially enclosing the back-deck frame, to form an upholstered back-deck unit;  
            applying a respective unitary arm upholstery piece to each of two arm frames, the  
10     upholstery pieces substantially enclosing the arm frames, to form upholstered arm units; and  
            attaching the upholstered arm units to the upholstered back-deck unit to form a fully upholstered sofa.

26. The method defined in Claim 25, wherein the back-deck upholstery piece  
15     includes a zipper for enclosing the back-deck frame within the back-deck upholstery piece.

27. The method defined in Claim 26, wherein each of the arm upholstery pieces includes a zipper for enclosing its respective arm frame within the arm upholstery piece.

20        28. The method defined in Claim 25, wherein the arm frames include protruding hooks, and the back-deck frame includes receptacles on lateral edges thereof, and wherein the attaching step comprises engaging the hooks of the upholstered arm units into the receptacles of the upholstered back-deck unit.

25        29. The method defined in Claim 28, wherein the attaching step further includes further securing the upholstered arm units to the upholstered back-deck unit with a threaded fastener.

30        30. The method defined in Claim 25, wherein the step of applying the back-deck upholstery piece to the back-deck frame includes attaching a deck fabric sheet to a deck portion of the back-deck frame, the deck fabric sheet being attached to the back-deck upholstery piece.

31. The method defined in Claim 30, wherein the deck fabric sheet includes transverse pockets with slats inserted therein, and wherein the step of attaching the deck fabric sheet comprises inserting the slats into slots in the deck portion of the back-deck frame.

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32. The method defined in Claim 25, further comprising the step of attaching an extruded cap to a back portion of the back-deck frame prior to the step of applying an upholstery piece to the back-deck frame.

10 33. The method defined in Claim 25, further comprising the step of attaching an extruded cap to a deck portion of the back-deck frame.